Message Text

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66

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

IO-10 /075 W

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R 201440Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6852

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 0580

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, XF

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM ARABIC PRESS RE SECRETARY'S VISIT

1. PRINCIPAL EAST JERUSALEM ARABIC DAILY, EL QUDS, HAS FLUCTUATED IN ITS ASSESSMENT OF SECRETARY'S CHANCES FOR SUCCESS BUT HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT BENEFIT PALESTINIANS WOULD DERIVE FROM HIS EFFORTS. MARCH 20 EDITORAIL, HEADED "NO WAR WITHOUT EGYPT AND NO PEACE WITHOUT PALESTINIANS", IS MOST PESSIMISTIC TO DATE. IT REVIEWS SECRETARY'S NEED FOR SUCCESS AND ATTRIBUTES HIS DIFFICULTIES TO FAILURE "TO CONVINCE ISRAELI LEADERS OF HIS FAITHFULNESS (TO ISRAEL)" AND OF "THE ADVERSE RESULTS OF THE FAILURE OF HIS MISSION". ISRAEL, PAPER ASSERTS WANTS RECONCILIATION BUT NOT PEACE. EDITORIAL PREDICTS FAILURE FOR THE MISSION AND SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY ARGUES THAT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE STANDS NO BETTER CHANCE THAN SECRETARY. ARAGS IN THE END WILL HAVE TO RECONCILE ELEMENTS OF EQUATION POSED BY EDITORIAL'S TITLE, IT CONCLUDES.

2. TWO OTHER EAST JERUSALEM DAILEIS, ES SHAAB AND EL FAJR, ROUTINELY MANIFEST THEIR FAR LEFT ORIENTATION WITH DENUNCIATION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF US MOTIVES. FORMER WARNS IN PARTICULAR OF US-ISRAELI CON-

SPIRACY TO DIVIDE ARAB STATES THROUGH STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH AND SUPPORTS RECONVENING OF GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. COMMENT: WEST BANK OPINION GENERALLY SEEMS TO HOPE THAT GENEVA FORUM WILL FORCE US TO COME TO GRIPS WITH WHAT IS SEEN AS ISRAELI INTRASIGEANCE, AND AT LAST TO DEAL WITH PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. EL QUDS EDITORIAL IS SAYING IF EFFECT THAT ISARELI INTRASIGEANCE WILL PREVENT SETTLEMENT WHATEVER THE FORUM. DAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Authority: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1975JERUSA00580
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D750098-0775

From: JERUSALEM Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750333/aaaabdim.tel Line Count: 70

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION NEA Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags Review Date: 18 JUN 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by JonesKG>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by hartledg>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: JERUSALEM ARABIC PRESS RE SECRETARY'S VISIT TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, XF, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006